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Week of April 6, 1992

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FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Regional Directors for Public Affairs and the States in their regions:

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Week of April 6, 1992

$5 MILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
AWARDED FOR NEW YORK JOB CORPS CENTER

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor is awarding a $5 million contract to J. Kokolakis Contracting, Inc., of Rocky Point, N.Y., for the construction of student dormitory buildings at the Delaware Valley Job Corps Center in Callicoon, N.Y.

The Delaware Valley Job Corps Center -- with a capacity of 408 students -- offers vocational training in word processing, bookkeeping, electronic assembly, auto body repair, nursing, painting and other areas. The center also offers apprentice training for plumbers and cooks and provides English-as-a-Second-Language instruction for Hispanic students.

Job Corps provides education and training to nearly 68,000 students each year at 106 centers in 42 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Established in 1964, the program prepares disadvantaged youth aged 16 to 21 for productive employment.

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Week of April 6, 1992

WORK AND FAMILY PROVISIONS IN MAJOR CONTRACTS SUBJECT TO NEW LABOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

WASHINGTON -- The tug and pull between workplace demands and family needs in the 1990s is increasingly being met by pragmatic and creative responses of companies and their unions through the collective bargaining process.

A new report published by the U.S. Department of Labor examines the range of responses to work and family issues in selected major collective bargaining agreements. It also provides examples of specific contract language negotiated by the parties to address particular interests of working family members.

The contract clauses examined cover family status and job relationships, including maternity and parental leave, child and elder care, employee assistance and flexible benefit programs. Flexible work schedules and other family-related issues such as financial planning, relocation costs, tuition assistance and adoption are also studied.

The 90-page report examines 452 agreements, each covering 1,000 workers or more, that were in effect on July 1, 1990 or later. The contracts are on file with the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics under provisions of the Labor-Management Relations (Taft-Hartley) Act of 1947. The agreements cover 2.8 million workers in the private sector.

Of the contracts examined, 227 contained one or more work and family provisions, most in the manufacturing sector. The employers and unions whose contract clauses are quoted in the study are listed in an appendix. The clauses are not meant to be interpreted as model provisions, but rather are included to demonstrate the diversity of approaches and contract language adopted by practitioners to address work and family issues.

A limited number of single free copies of Work and Family Provisions in Major Collective Bargaining Agreements are available from the Bureau of Labor-Management Relations and Cooperative Programs, Room N5419, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. Please include a self-addressed mailing label and specify BLMR 144 when ordering.

The report will also be available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161, (703) 487-4650. Contact NTIS for availability and cost.

This material will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 523-2770; TDD phone 1-800-326-2577.

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Week of April 6, 1992

LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES $1.4 MILLION
GRANT FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor is providing a $1.4 million grant to the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission in Ridgway, Pa., to assist more than 500 dislocated workers.

The funds are authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) for dislocated worker programs. This award will be used to assist workers dislocated from 33 bituminous coal mining companies in 12 counties of central and western Pennsylvania.

The grant, awarded by the Employment and Training Administration's Office of Work-Based Learning, will provide a number of services including career assessment, job search assistance, classroom training, on-the-job training and supportive services.

The dislocated worker program is a comprehensive approach to assisting workers who have been, or are about to be, laid off due to technological change, foreign competition or the permanent closing of a plant of facility. Training is also provided for workers who are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation.

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This text is available from the Department of Labor electronic bulletin board, LABOR NEWS. User costs are limited to a toll call. LABOR NEWS Phone: 202-523-4784; 1200 or 2400 BAUD; Parity: None; Data Bits = 8; Stop Bit = 1; Voice phone: 202-523-7343.

Week of April 6, 1992

U.S. IMPORT AND EXPORT PRICE INDEXES
FOR FEBRUARY 1991

WASHINGTON -- The Import and Price Index increased 0.3 percent in February after declining for 2 consecutive months the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor has reported. Export prices also posted a turnaround, rising 0.7 percent.

The rise in import prices resulted from a combination of increased prices for nonpetroleum imports and relatively flat petroleum prices. The 0.3 percent increase in the nonpetroleum import index was led by increased prices for motor vehicles, up 0.9 percent, and consumer goods, up 0.5 percent. Prices for petroleum imports edged down 0.2 percent during February, after declining 9.4 percent and 8.7 percent in January and December.

The export price increase was led by a 3.8 percent rise in the index for foods, feeds, and beverages. The index for industrial supplies and materials rose 0.3 percent, the first increase in 4 months. Capital goods prices edged up 0.1 percent, motor vehicles prices rose 0.5 percent, and consumer goods prices increased 0.2 percent.

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Week of April 6, 1992

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Exports and imports of goods and services will continue to be the fastest growing categories of the gross national product over the 1990-2005 period, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Exports, however, will grow faster than imports, unlike the 1975-1990 period.

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Federal government expenditures will decline over the 1990-2005 period because of cuts in defense expenditures, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is a major change from the 1975-1990 period when defense expenditures increased faster than the total gross national product.

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State and local government expenditures is the only major category of the gross national product that will increase faster over the 1990-2005 period than during the 1975-1990 period, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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